



Photos courtesy of Rick Bach

# Ginger and Ruby

Humor has gone to the dogs

by Lynn Woike  
Editor

**G**inger and Ruby are two half Labrador/Golden Retriever sisters who “didn’t go through the gene pool – they went around it,” according to their owner Rick Bach, who named them after retired strippers.

Ginger’s coat is that of a black Golden; she is fluffy and moves about as slow as molasses in winter. Ruby has the slick coat of a Lab and gets excited when air passes by.

“They’re truly bi-polar opposites.”

Bach said that “The Girls,” now 5, “are a constant source of entertainment.” He’s sharing that entertainment by producing a multi-panel comic using black-and-white photographs in which he reveals their thoughts, as he believes they could be.

A self-taught painter from the age of 40, Bach has received numerous awards and has had three solo exhibits. A multi-talented and creative soul, he’s worked in a variety of mediums: acrylic, charcoal, pen and ink, collage, performance art, interactive installations, published articles and diversity workshops. With this project, he’s added photography to the list.

He’s been snapping pictures of the dogs since they were puppies, and now making it a point to take more than ever – never posing them or staging the background.

“It’s purely me observing their life,” Bach said.

When he feels one of “those looks,” he gets inspired, adds a dose of cleverness and a comic is produced.

“Each strip you can look at as a piece of art. Each one has its own rhythm,” he said. “They balance humor with art.”

Giving the dogs his attention after work one night, he said, “They’re such unique characters. How can people say dogs don’t have souls? We can learn so much from dogs, like unconditional love. They’re always glad to see you. They are loyal.”

They checked out this reporter, sniffing and

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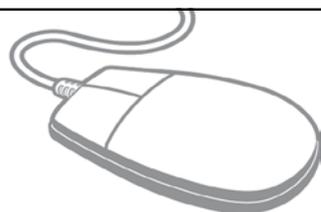
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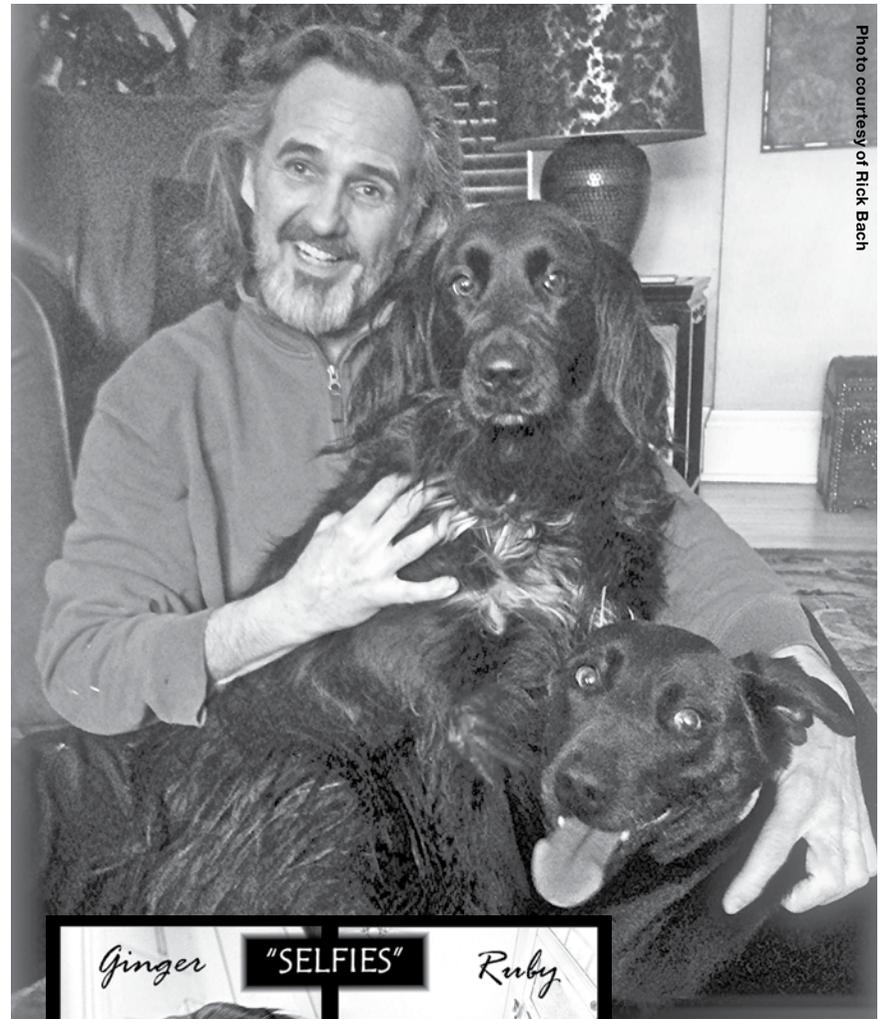


Photo courtesy of Rick Bach



Rick Bach's two dogs are the subjects of a comic strip.

**“Each strip you can look at as a piece of art. Each one has its own rhythm. They balance humor with art.”**

**–Rick Bach**

nuzzling, offering themselves for petting, seeming to know the interview was all about them.

The pictures he takes of them reflect their character.

“Ginger and Ruby were born for the spotlight. Their sisterhood antics have been providing comedic relief to our neighborhood for years,” said Bach’s neighbor, Diane Klingman.

“We thought Ruby was the reincarnation of Houdini as a puppy – she was constantly escaping for rants through the hood,” Bach said.

He’s glad he decided to get two siblings because “they will always have each other,” and urges others to consider doing the same, adding,

“It will make it easier in the big picture for everyone.”

Bach owns Studio Salon and Gallery on Oakwood Avenue that last year celebrated its 25th anniversary. “Nine out of 10 clients ask about The Girls,” he said. Now when they do, they get to see the latest strips.

He used them as a focus group, keeping the strips they liked best and reworking the others.

In addition to getting them published, he’s also hoping to produce greeting cards and a calendar. **WHL**

For more comics, see [www.rickbachart.com](http://www.rickbachart.com).